

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ABIDJA 01730 181624Z

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SSM-03 EUR-12 /092 W

-----190007 096749 /13

R 181143Z FEB 77

FM AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2123

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L ABIDJAN 1730

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR IS IV

SUBJ: IVORIAN RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL: HOUPHOUET'S MEETING WITH RABIN

REF: TEL AVIV 0888, TEL AVIV 1164, ABIDJAN 1390

SUMMARY: WE HAVE TALKED WITH ARIEL ARAN, WHO REPRESENTS ISRAELI INTERESTS OUT OF BELGIAN EMBASSY HERE, AND WITH EMMANUEL NOUAMA, FONOFF DIRECTOR OF CABINET WHO WAS IN GENEVA AT TIME OF HOUPHOUET'S MEETING WITH RABIN. BOTH CONFIRM SUBSTANCE OF CONVERSATION CONVOYED TEL AVIV 888. HOUPHOUET CONTINUES WELL DISPOSED TOWARDS ISRAEL, GRATEFUL FOR ISRAELI ASSISTANCE, AND IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH ISRAELI OFFICIALS. ISRAELI FIRMS AND BUSINESAMEN OPERATE UNHINDERED IN IVORY COAST. HOUPHOUET MAKES NO SECRET OF HIS REGRET AT WHAT HE CONSIDERED NECESSITY OF BREAKING RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL. RESUMPTION OF RELATIONS IN NEAR FUTURE IS UNLIKELY, HOWEVER, UNLESS SUBSTANTIAL NUMBER OF OTHER AFRICAN STATES PREPARED TAKE SIMILAR STEP. HOUPHOUET'S EFFORTS TOWARD A MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT WILL CONTINUE, MOTIVATED IN SOME MEASURE BY HIS DESIRE TO MAKE A PERSONAL CONTRIBUTION, BUT MORE SO BY HIS GENUINE BELIEF IN DIALOGUE AND THE SEARCH FOR PEACEFUL SOLUTIONS. HE IS ALSO QUITE GENUINELY  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 ABIDJA 01730 181624Z

CONCERNED ABOUT SOVIET PRESENCE AND COMMUNIST EXPANSION IN AFRICA. DECREASING TENSION IN MIDDLE EAST MIGHT MOLLIFY RADICAL-MODERATE CONFRONTATION IN OAU CONTEXT, ENHANCING PROSPECTS OF PEACEFUL SOLUTIONS TO AFRICAN PROBLEMS. END SUMMARY

2. ARAN, WHOSE RANK IS MINISTER, ALTHOUGH HE CARRIED AS SECOND SECRETARY AT BELGIAN EMBASSY, CONFIRMED TEL AVIV'S DESCRIPTION OF

HOUPHOUET-RABIN ENCOUNTER. HOUPHOUET HAD NOT OFFERED TO NEGOTIATE, AND HAD NOT CARRIED ANY MESSAGE FROM PLO, ALTHOUGH HE HAD SEVERAL

CONTACTS WITH SARTAWI IN PARIS. HOUPHOUET WAS ANXIOUS, HOWEVER, MAKE ANY POSSIBLE CONTRIBUTION TOWARD SETTLEMENT. ARAN NOTED THAT AT RABINWPS REQUEST COMMUNIQUE MENTIONED ONLY SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS 242 AND 338, AND NOT UNGA RESOLUTIONS. NOUAMA CONFIRMED ISRAELI ACCOUNTS BUT SAID HOUPHOUET HAD PRESSED FOR SOME (UNSPECIFIED) ISRAELI INITIATIVE, OR GOODWILL GESTURE, TO WHICH ARAB SIDE MIGHT RESPOND. NOUAMA NOTED GOIC ALSO TAKING SOUNDINGS AMONG RESPONSIBLE ARABS. GHOULEM BERRAH, AN ADVISOR TO HOUPHOUET ON THE MIDDLE EAST, WAS IN TUNIS LAST WEEK (TUNIS 1040 HOTEL) AND FONMIN USHER WILL ATTEND AFRO ARAB MEETING IN CAIRO MARCH 7.

3. IVORY COAST WAS AMONG THE LAST AFRICAN COUNTRIES TO BREAK WITH ISRAEL, AND MAKES NO SECRET OF ITS CONTINUED CLOSE RELATIONSHIP. ISRAELI BUSINESSMEN AND TECHNICAL ADVISORS ARE WELCOME HERE. PRESTIGIOUS HOTEL IVOIRE AND RIVIERA RESORT COMPLEX OWNED IN PART BY ISRAELI INTERESTS, AND DESIGNED BY MOSHE MEYER, WHO REMAINS ONE OF HOUPHOUET'S MOST INTIMATE FRIENDS. ARAN HAS READY ACCESS AT HIGHEST LEVELS IN GOIC. NEVERTHELESS WE CONCUR IN ARAN'S ESTIMATE THERE LITTLE LIKELIHOOD OF IVORY COAST BREAKING OAU FRONT TO RESUME FORMAL RELATIONS, AND ARAN NOT OPTIMISTIC THAT OTHER AFRICAN STATES MODERATE ON THIS ISSUE -- CAMEROON, GABON, SENEGAL, UPPER VOLTA OR OTHERS -- HAVE MUCH INTEREST IN RECOGNIZING ISRAEL.

4. HOUPHOUET IS BY NO MEANS IMMUNE TO CONSIDERATIONS OF PERSONAL PRESTIGE -- HIS HANKERING AFTER THE NOBEL PEACE PRIZE IS AN OPEN SECRET -- BUT MINARBI'S DESCRIPTION (PARA 2 TEL AVIV 1164) IS OVERLY CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 ABIDJA 01730 181624Z

CYNICAL. HOUPHOUET'S COMMITMENT TO THE SEARCH FOR PEACE IN AFRICA AND ELSEWHERE IS PROFOUND AND UNFEIGNED. DIALOGUE IS ALMOST A FETISH IN IVORY COAST, AND IS MENTIONED IN PRACTICALLY EVERY POLICY ANNOUNCEMENT. EMBASSY ALSO BELIEVES HOUPHOUET SEES A MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT AS HAVING DIRECT IMPLICATIONS FOR IVORY COAST. HIS FREQUENTLY EXPRESSED ALARM OVER SOVIET PRESENCE IN AFRICA IS QUITE GENUINE. A MIDDLE EAST SOLUTION WOULD DEMONSTRATE THE EFFICACY OF DIALOGUE, BUT, MORE CONCRETELY, BY ELIMINATING ARAB-ISRAEL PROBLEM AS A TOUCHSTONE OF THIRD-WORLD SOLIDARITY WOULD FREE HOUPHOUET'S HANDS TO PURSUE MODERATE AND PRAGMATIC POLICIES HE FAVORS AND, ALSO PERHAPS REDUCE SOVIET LEVERAGE BY PERMITTING CLOSER TIES BETWEEN MODERATE AFRICANS AND ARABS.

STEARNS

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** FOREIGN RELATIONS, SPHERE OF INFLUENCE, HEAD OF GOVERNMENT VISITS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 18-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977ABIDJA01730  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D770059-0380  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** ABIDJAN  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1977/newtext/t19770229/aaaaazmj.tel  
**Line Count:** 111  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** 08b07cc4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION AF  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 77 TEL AVIV 888, 77 TEL AVIV 1164, 77 ABIDJAN 1390  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 03-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 3287070  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** IVORIAN RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL: HOUPHOUET'S MEETING WITH RABIN  
**TAGS:** PFOR, IS, IV, US, (RABIN, YITZHAK), (HOUPHOUET-BOIGNY, FELIX)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/08b07cc4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009